

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for managing inventory supply in a network environment, comprising:

receiving a signal from a sensor device at a buyer system, said signal indicating that a minimum level specified for a product used in a manufacturing location has been reached[.];

wherein said level is:

set by an adopted business rule; and

measured by an on-hand quantity of said product;

receiving a demand note from said buyer system requesting restocking of said product, wherein said demand note was created in response to said signal and includes a requested quantity;

querying a local inventory database for a supply availability status in response to said demand note;

transmitting said demand note to a local inventory system for said restocking of said product when said querying a local inventory database indicates that said requested quantity of said product is locally available at said buyer system;

querying a vendor inventory system for said supply availability status when said querying a local inventory database indicates that said requested quantity of said product is not locally available at said buyer system;

transmitting a purchase order to said vendor inventory system when said querying a vendor inventory system indicates that said requested quantity of said product is available from a storage location associated with said vendor, said purchase order including said product and said requested quantity; and

transmitting said purchase order to a factory for manufacture of said product when said querying a vendor inventory system indicates that said requested quantity is not available from a storage location associated with said vendor.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising specifying a maximum level acceptable for said product to control said requested quantity.

4. (currently amended) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for managing inventory supply in a network environment, the storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method comprising:

receiving a signal from a sensor device at a buyer system indicating that a minimum level specified for a product used in a manufacturing location has been reached[.];

wherein said level is:

set by an adopted business rule; and

measured by an on-hand quantity of said product;

receiving a demand note from said buyer system requesting restocking of said product, wherein said demand note was created in response to said signal and includes a requested quantity;

querying a local inventory database for a supply availability status in response to said demand note; transmitting said demand note to a local inventory system for said restocking of said product when said querying a local inventory database indicates that said requested quantity of said product is locally available at said buyer system;

querying a vendor inventory system for said supply availability status when said querying a local inventory database indicates that said requested quantity of said product is not locally available at said buyer system;

transmitting a purchase order to said vendor inventory system when said querying a vendor inventory system indicates that said requested quantity of said product is available from a storage location associated with said vendor, said purchase order including said product and said requested quantity; and

transmitting said purchase order to a factory for manufacture of said product when said querying a vendor inventory system indicates that said requested quantity is not available from a storage location associated with said vendor.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 4, further comprising instructions for causing said computer to implement:

specifying a maximum level acceptable for said product to control said requested quantity.

7. (Canceled)

8. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said factory produces said product for use by said buyer system.

9 - 11 (Canceled)

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising facilitating billing activities between said vendor system, said buyer system, said manufacturing location and said factory.

13. (Canceled)

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving notification that said requested quantity of said product has been delivered to said manufacturing location pursuant to said demand note.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising receiving notification that said requested quantity of said product has been delivered to said manufacturing location pursuant to said purchase order.

16. (currently amended) A system for managing inventory supply in a network environment, said system comprising:

a network;

a host system in communication with said network, said host system including instructions to implement a method comprising:

receiving a signal via said network from a sensor device at a buyer system, said signal indicating that a minimum level specified for a product used in a manufacturing location has been reached[.];

wherein said level is:

set by an adopted business rule; and

measured by an on-hand quantity of said product;

receiving a demand note via said network from said buyer system requesting restocking of said product, wherein said demand note was created in response to said signal and includes a requested quantity;

querying a local inventory database for a supply availability status in response to said demand note;

transmitting said demand note via said network to a local inventory system for said restocking of said product when said querying a local inventory database indicates that said requested quantity of said product is locally available at said buyer system;

querying a vendor inventory system for said supply availability status when said querying a local inventory database indicates that said requested quantity of said product is not locally available at said buyer system;

transmitting a purchase order via said network to said vendor inventory system when said querying a vendor inventory system indicates that said requested quantity of said product is available from a storage location associated with said vendor, said purchase order including said product and said requested quantity; and

transmitting said purchase order via said network to a factory for manufacture of said product when said querying a vendor inventory system indicates that said requested quantity is not available from a storage location associated with said vendor.